

Message Text

SECRET

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63

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 OMB-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 NSCE-00

DRC-01 /111 W

----- 096810

R 070940Z FEB 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1343

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

S E C R E T PEKING 0223

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: ASSASSINATION RUMOR

REF: HONG KONG 1395

1. RUMOR OF ASSASSINATION OF LI CHEN HAS BEEN CIRCULATING IN PEKING FOR ABOUT A WEEK. DEPENDING ON YOUR SOURCE YOU CAN HAVE A CHOICE OF ASSASSINATION, SUICIDE OR STRANGULATION. WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ORIGINAL SOURCE OF STORY, AND RIGHT NOW WE WOULD BET ON SOVIETS. AFP CORRESPONDENT FLIPO HEARD IT FROM RUSSIANS. USLO OFFICER FIRST HEARD STORY (WITH STRANGULATION TWIST) FROM POLISH POLITICAL COUNSELOR. INDIAN EMBOFF ALSO MENTIONED RUMOR. IN ONE VERSION, ALLEGED LI CHEN ASSASSINATION WAS LINKED TO "SOME SORT OF INCIDENT."

2. WE HAVE NOT HEARD THE YU SANG RUMOR MENTIONED BY
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RICHARDSON, AND WE WONDER IF HE MAY HAVE HAD A GARBLED

VERSION OF THE LI CHEN STORY. WE WILL CHECK WITH THE
BRITISH.

3. COMMENT: STORY MIGHT VERY WELL BE A SOVIET DISINFORMATION
PLOY. IT WOULD SERVE THEIR PURPOSES WELL
IN THE PRESENT CLIMATE. (A SOVIET EMBOFF ALSO IS
REPORTED TO HAVE CREDITED THE AMERICANS WITH STARTING THE
RUMOR.) NEVERTHELESS, ABSENCE OF LI CHEN FROM THE
SCENE LENDS SOME CREDENCE TO THE STORY AND IT WAS THE
RUSSIANS WHO FIRST FLOATED THE STORY ON TENG HSIAO-PING'S
ELEVATION TO POLITBURO.
JENKINS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ASSASSINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740249/aaaabtou.tel
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Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: PINT, CH, (LI CHEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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